

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation that a Notice of Allowance was mailed on July 28, 2010, in which claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13-16, 19-24 were allowed. Upon reviewing of the Examiner's amendment to claims 19, 20 and 23, however, the Applicants noticed that some further, albeit minor adjustment to the allowed claims is needed. Therefore, with this paper, claims 19, 23 and 24 are amended, claim 20 is canceled, and none are added. No new matter is introduced with the amendment and entry of the amendment before issuing the patent is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Claims

In the Examiner's amendment, the term "network equipment" in claims 19, 20 and 23 was replaced with "broadband access equipment," respectively. However, claim 20 recites that "the broadband access equipment" ("the network equipment" as appeared in the previous response dated June 11, 2010) is a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) broadband access equipment, or a Local Area Network (LAN) switch; or a router, or a layer-3 switch. In addition, claim 24 recites the limitations of "connections between the multicast users and the network equipment" in line 6 and "a connection between the given multicast user and the network equipment" in line 19. Therefore, Applicants believes that an amendment to claims 19, 20, 23 and 24 to make these claims consistent with each other and in proper dependency is necessary. For this reason, the Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 20: "a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) broadband access equipment, or a Local Area Network (LAN) switch; or a router, or a layer-3 switch" into claim 24, and rewritten the preamble of claim 24 so as to be consistent with the recitation of the "network equipment" in lines 6 and 19 of claim 24. Applicants has further canceled claim 20, and amended the term "broadband access equipment" in claims 19 and 23 into "network equipment" so as to be consistent with the recitation of the "network equipment" in claim 24. These amendments are not believed to have any effect on the Examiner's reasons for allowance. No new matter has been added, and the amendment does not require an additional search.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If there is any problem with the proposed amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below for a discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

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